

[.]

THE
DECLARATION
OF THE
Rebels in Scotland;

It is not unknown to a great part of the world how happy the Church of Scotland was whilst she enjoyed the Ordinances of Jesus Christ in Purity and Power, of the which we have been deplorably deprived by the establishment of Prelacy; so it is evident not only to impartial persons, but professed Enemies, with what unparalleled Patience and Constancy the People of God have Endured all Cruelties, Injustice and Oppression, that the Wit or Malice of Prelates and Malignants could Invent or Exercise.

And being most unwilling to any thing which might import Opposition to lawful Authority, or Engage the Kingdom in War, although we have been a long time groaning under the overturning of the work of Reformation, Corruption of Doctrine, slighting of Worship, despising of Ordinances, and the Changing of the Antient Church-Discipline and Government, thrusting out so many of our Faithful Ministers from their Charge, Confining, straightly Imprisoning, Exiling, yea and putting to Death many of them; and introducing upon their Flocks a company of insufficient and scandalous persons.

And *Fining, Confining, Imprisoning, Torturing, Tormenting, and Scourging, Stigmatizing Poor people, Plundering their Goods, and Quartering upon them Rude Soldiers, Selling of their Persons to foreign Plantations, burning, and*
A *inter-*

intercommoning many, whereby great Numbers in divers Corners of the Land were forced to leave their Dwellings, Wives, Children and Relations, and made to wander as Pilgrims in hazard of their Lives, none daring to refect (or receive them) harbour or supply them (though Starving) or so much as speak to them for fear of the same Punishments.

And these things acted under colour of Law and in Effect tending to Banish not only all sense of Religion, but also to extinguish all Natural Affection, even among persons of the nearest Relations; and likewise groaning under the Intollerable Yoke of Oppression in all our Civil Interests, our Bodies, Liberties and Estates; so that all manner of Outrages have been most Arbitrarily Exercised upon us through a Tract of divers Years by-past, particularly in the Year 1678. by sending against us an Armed Host of barbarous Savages, contrary to all Law and Humanity; and by laying on us several Impositions and Taxes as formerly, so of late by a meeting of pre-limited and over-awed Members in a Convention of Estates in July 1678. for keeping up of an Armed Force entrusted as to a great part of it in the hands of Avowed Papists, or Favourers of them, by whom sundry Invasions have been made upon us, and most Exorbitant Abuses, with incredible Insolencies committed against us.

And we being continually sought after, while meeting in Houses for Divine Worship, Ministers and People frequently Apprehended, and most rigorously Used; and so being necessitated to Attend the Lords Ordinances in the Fields, even in the most Desert places, and there often hunted out to the Effusion of our Blood, and killing of many of us, so that we were inevitably constrained either to defend ourselves by Arms at these Meetings, or be altogether deprived of the Gospel Preached by Christs Faithful Ministers, and made absolute Slaves.

And at one of these Meetings upon the first of June Instant, being the Lords Day, Captain Graham of Clavers being Warranted by a late Proclamation to Kill whomsoever he found in Arms at Field-Conventicles, did furiously Assault the People Assembled, and further to provoke, did cruelly bind, like Beasts, a Minister, with some other People, whom he did that very Morning find in their Houses.

And several being killed on both sides, and they knowing certainly that by their Law, if apprehended, they behoved to dye, they did stand to their own defence, and continued together, and there after many of our Friends and Country-men being under the same Oppression, and expecting the same measure, did freely offer their Assistance.

We

[3]

We therefore being inevitably, and of absolute Necessity forced to take this last Remedy, the Magistrates having shut the Door by a Law against any Application, Than whatsoever our Grievances either in Civil or Sacred Matters be, we had not the priviledge of a Supplicant or Petitioner.

Do judge our selves bound to declare that these, with many other horrid grievances in Church and State, which we purpose to manifest more fully hereafter, are the true Causes of this our Lawful and Innocent Self-defence.

And we do most solemnly in the Presence of Almighty God, the Searcher of Hearts, declare, that the true Reasons of our continuing in Arms, are candidly and sincerely these.

First, The Defending and Securing the true Protestant Religion, and Presbyterial Government founded on the Word of God, and summarily comprehended in our Confession of Faith, and Catechisms, and established by the Laws of this Land, to which the King, Nobles and People, are solemnly engaged in our National and Solemn League and Covenant.

And more particularly, the defending and maintaining the kingly Authority of our Lord Jesus Christ over his Church, against all sinful supremacy derogatory thereto, and incroching thereupon.

Secondly, The preserving and defending the Kings Majesties Person and Authority in preservation and defence of the true Religion of the Kingdom, that the world may bear witness with our consciences of our loyalty that we have no thoughts nor intentions to diminish his just power and greatness.

Thirdly, The obtaining of a free and unlimited Parliament and a free General Assembly in order to the redressing the aforesaid Grievances for preventing the Eminent Danger of Popery and Extirpating Prelacy.

This therefore being the Cause we doe appeare for, and do Resolve in Gods great name to own, hereby homologating or assenting to all the Testimonies, of all the Faithful sufferers for truth in Scotland these Eighteen Years by-gone.

We humbly request the Kings Majesty would be pleased to restore all things as he found them, when God brought him home to his Crown and Kingdoms, and if that cannot be obtained then we heartily and humbly Invite, Intreat, Beseech and Obtest in the Bowels of Jesus Christ All who are under the same Bonds with us to Concur in the defence of this Common Cause and Interest, and that they would not stand still and

see, not only us oppressed, the foresaid Cause Ruined, Adversaries highly and proudly insult against God, and all good men. Friends of the Truth discouraged, yea the Protestant Religion in *Brittain* and *Ireland*, destroyed; but even themselves within a little while made a Pro of, or else force when we are broken, (which the good Lord prevent dreadfully to wrong their own Conscience.

Finally because we desire no mans hurt or blood, we request our Country men now the standing Forces of the Kingdom, some of them being our Friends and Kinsmen not to fight against us least in so doing they be found fighting against God, whose Cause and Quarrel we assure he will own and signally Countenance, seeing we fight under his Banner who is the Lord of Hosts.

F I N I S.
